
Press Release

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SCAG Recognizes Outstanding Projects in the Region with 2018 Sustainability Awards

LOS ANGELES – Seven exemplary and innovative planning projects will be honored in a ceremony on Thursday, May 3 as winners of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2018 Sustainability Awards.

Recipients of the 11th annual awards include municipalities, agencies, non-profit organizations and developers throughout the six-county SCAG region. The SCAG Sustainability Awards are the region's highest honors for projects that promote and improve mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability in Southern California. These plans and projects are integral to carrying out the goals and policies of SCAG's 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, and promote a cleaner, healthier and happier Southern California.

"We're honored to present these awards, which recognize the best of the best when it comes to improving the quality of life of our communities and the region," said Margaret Finlay, City Council member for Duarte and President of SCAG. "When we talk about sustainability, it encompasses so much, but we want to especially recognize cities that integrate land use and transportation to improve our lives. As these projects illustrate, there is a tremendous amount of innovative and meaningful work being done across our region."

The highest honor, for Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability, will be awarded to the City of Long Beach for a combination of three projects that demonstrate a holistic approach to sustainable planning. "Long Beach is honored to be recognized for outstanding sustainability efforts amongst municipalities, agencies and organizations throughout Southern California," said Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia. "This award is a testament to our commitment to promoting mobility and livability throughout our City."

The Sustainability Awards winners will be formally honored at SCAG's 53rd annual Regional Conference and General Assembly, taking place at The Renaissance Indian Wells Resort & Spa in Indian Wells. Over 850 civic, business and non-profit agency leaders will be in attendance.

The 2018 honorees by category are:

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN SUSTAINABILITY

City of Long Beach | 2017 Bicycle Master Plan, Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) & Willow Springs Wetland Restoration Project

This year's award for Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability recognizes the City of Long Beach for their overall excellence in two distinct plans and one project. Combined, these three efforts demonstrate the City of Long Beach's holistic approach to sustainability that includes improvements in mobility, public health and natural lands restoration.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

City of Cathedral City & SCRAP Gallery | Cycle Cathedral City Bicycle Outreach and Education Program

The purpose of Cycle Cathedral City is to educate and empower while promoting bicycle use. By providing a year-round series of projects and events, the program encourages residents to use more active transportation for their health and environment. Goals set for the program are to encourage biking, provide opportunities for students and residents to get more exercise, recycle donated and salvaged bikes and encourage community and student leaders to make sustainability a priority.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

City of San Fernando | Corridors Specific Plan

The Corridors Specific Plan fosters sustainable development patterns, encourages public transit and walking and biking within the downtown area and the surrounding neighborhood. San Fernando overcame multiple challenges in reaching successful adoption of the Plan including community push-back, budgetary constraints, a staffing shortage, regulatory constraints and difficulties that come with being an economically-disadvantaged community.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Cities of Arcadia, Azusa, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia, San Marino, South Pasadena and La Metro | 626 Golden Streets

Modeled after the thousands of "ciclovía" events that have been staged in cities around the world, 626 Golden Streets temporarily closed off stretches of roadway from South Pasadena to Azusa for people to walk, jog, skate, bike, run and play. Over 18 miles of streets, linking 6 Metro Gold Line stations, were made car-free on March 5, 2017. Eight San Gabriel Valley communities participated in the event which was held on the one-year anniversary of the Foothill Gold Line Phase 2A Azusa extension opening.

GREEN REGION

City of Rancho Cucamonga | Rancho Cucamonga Sustainable Community Action Plan

The Sustainable Community Action Plan is a unique triple-bottom line approach to drive comprehensive sustainable change across not only Rancho Cucamonga's environment but also its economy and community health and equity. Five key areas that the plan targets include energy and water efficiency, land use and open space, transportation and mobility, community health and environmental equity.

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

City of Perris | Live Well Perris

Adopted in concurrence with the General Plan Healthy Community Element, Live Well Perris is a campaign to provide opportunities and create initiatives that provide citizens a platform to live a healthier, active lifestyle. Activities have included urban farming, free workout sessions, sports clinics for children, city-wide health fairs, hikes, yoga and a farmers market.

INTEGRATED PLANNING

City of Hermosa Beach | PLAN Hermosa

A combination of the city's two key planning documents, the General Plan and the Local Coastal Program, PLAN Hermosa raises the bar for General Plan updates in Southern California by addressing new and critical topics like climate change and sea level rise. Using diverse outreach methods, PLAN Hermosa thoughtfully engaged the community and set a consistent graphic style and tone that contributes to the long-term utility of the document.

More details on SCAG's sustainability programs and the 2018 awards are available at <http://sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/Awards.aspx>.

SCAG's annual Regional Conference & General Assembly convenes on May 3 and 4 and will address key issues impacting the region. For more details on the event, "Southern California at a Crossroads," visit the event website here: <http://scag.ca.gov/ga2018>.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.